

**REMARKS**

Claims 31, 47-49, 57-59, and 65-79 are pending. By this amendment, claim 57 is amended. No new matter is introduced. Reconsideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

The Office Action notes that claims 31, 47-49, and 67-79 are allowed.

On page 2 the Office Action provides a response to Applicants' arguments with respect to claims 57-59, 65, and 66. The Examiner states that Applicants argue that the terms monitoring and managing are identical. However, in Applicants' prior response filed September 8, 2003, in discussing the terms managing and monitoring as they appeared in claim 57, Applicants were merely pointing out that the definition of managing is the same today as it was in 1997 and that the definition of monitoring is the same today as it was in 1997, not that the terms managing and monitoring are identical.

On page 3 the Office Action rejects claims 57-59 and 65-66 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 57 is amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. This rejection was also cited for claims 58, 59, 65 and 66, and Applicants believe these claims satisfy all the requirements for 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph given the herein provided amendment to claim 57. Accordingly, claims 57-59 and 65-66 are allowable under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Withdrawal of the rejection of these claims is respectfully requested.

On page 4 the Office Action rejects claims 57-59 and 65-66 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent 5,400,401 to Wasilewski et al. (hereafter Wasilewski). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Regarding claim 57, the Office Action asserts that Wasilewski teaches a control processor, which equates to the claimed CPU and a multiplexor, which equates to the claimed digital logic component. However, the Office Action does not assert that Wasilewski teaches a serializer, wherein the serializer combines the selected programs for channels into a signal for transmission.

Claim 57 recites, among other features, a serializer, wherein the serializer combines the selected programs or channels into a signal for transmission. As noted above, this feature is not disclosed or suggested by Wasilewski, nor does the Office Action assert that it is. Accordingly, claim 57 is patentable in view of Wasilewski. Claims 58-59 and 65-66 depend from patentable claim 57 and for this reason and the additional features they recite, claims 58-59 and 65-66 are

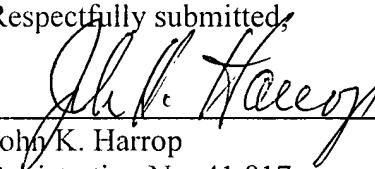
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Reply to Office Action of February 11, 2004

also patentable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 57-59 and 65-66 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner determine that anything further is necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, or credit any overpayment, caused by this filing to Deposit Account Number 50-2849.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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